

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
NATIONAL ORGANIC INITIATIVE
APPLICATION EVALUATION RANKING TOOL—STATE AND LOCAL QUESTIONS**

State Ranking Questions—400 total points possible	Fiscal Year 2014 Points
(1) If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1(a) Is the program application for development of a CAP for a Technical Service Provider (TSP) prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Point(s)
Soil Quality Degradation: Answer all questions that apply for a maximum of 45 points.	
2(a) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Schedule of Operations includes implementation of two or more soil quality or enhancing conservation practices (CPs) that address soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	45 Point(s)
2(b) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of one soil quality or enhancing a CP that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.?	25 Point(s)
Soil Erosion: Maximum of 45 points	
3(a) EQIP Schedule of Operations include CPs that will result in reduction of erosion?	45 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 110 points.	
4(a) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes CP 595, Integrated Pest Management?	45 Point(s)
4(b) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of CPs for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on non-cropland acreage?	20 Point(s)
4(c) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of CP 590, Nutrient Management, for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments?	45 Point(s)

State Ranking Questions—400 total points possible	Fiscal Year 2014 Points
Degraded Plant Condition: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 90 points.	
5(a) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes CPs that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering farm?	30 Point(s)
5(b) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes CPs with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators and/or beneficial insects?	30 Point(s)
5(c) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes CPs that support Integrated Pest Management?	30 Point(s)
Insufficient Water: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 50 points.	
6(a) CPs scheduled in the EQIP Schedule of Operations will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system?	25 Point(s)
6(b) EQIP Schedule of Operations will include CPs that will improve irrigation water management and/or conserve soil moisture?	25 Point(s)
Livestock Production Limitation: Answer all that apply for a maximum of 60 points.	
7(a) EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of CP 528, Prescribed Grazing, AND/OR CP 512, Pasture and Hayland Planting, for management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs?	30 Point(s)
7(b) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of CPs that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies?	20 Point(s)
7(c) EQIP Schedule of Operations includes implementation of CPs to assure adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not to include streams) are available in the treatment unit?	10 Point(s)

Local Ranking Questions - 250 total points possible	2014 Points
1. Is the program application for development of a CAP for a TSP prepared Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
2. Application includes at least one CP with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).	62 Point(s)
3. CPs are scheduled to be completed within four years.	62 Point(s)
4. Participant has a conservation plan approved at least 30 days prior to the application cutoff date that addresses a primary resource concern.	62 Point(s)
5. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts).	64 Point(s)